

## The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision

“become one by the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ”

“Anti-Semitic incidents in the US reaches record high” This was in the headlines last week.

It does not matter if the Jews are white, they are the target of an increase in violent acts against Jews. Jesus, a Jew, was the target of violence from Jews against Him. And all He did was to heal a man at Bethesda in Jerusalem. The solution to solve all anti-racial problems is the return of Jesus and setting up the kingdom of Israel. Different race does not often cause inter-racial dislike. Different tribes in Africa have and still have confrontation. Different nations in Europe have and still have confrontation even though they are the same race. Fights and killings in the same family are still going on. (still: meaning Cain and Abel) Many people so much want a one world government to end racial problems. First, there will not be a one world government until Jesus Christ comes to earth. This will end racial problems. We are living where the *grace of God* is **God’s gift to every believer**. The world is divided by racial, ethnic and gender barriers. These have been broken down in Christ. Christians are *united into one family*.

In this dispensation of the grace of God we have *the greatest amount of freedom* ever given by God.

Circumcision and uncircumcision are brought together in Christ. However they are still fighting with each other and with non-Christians. But we have a hint at how wonderful the world will be when Jesus Christ comes to earth and sets up His Kingdom. Ephesians chapter 2: shows how Jesus solved this problem.

The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision  
Ephesians 2:11-13

**Ephesians 2:11** Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision” which is performed in the flesh by human hands—

**Ephesians 2:12** remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth people of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**Ephesians 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ

During the previous dispensation the Jews were the chosen people of God. They were chosen to be the race of the future Messiah as well as custodians and writers of God’s written word.

The nation of Israel was placed under strict laws that were required to be obeyed to remain in good standing with God. However, they used the Law to attack and lead to crucifixion of Jesus. Israel was a works-based system demanding obedience for blessings **but** salvation was always based on faith in the Savior.

Paul lays out 7 disadvantages Gentiles had when it came to having any kind of relationship with God.

**First:** *They were Gentiles in the flesh.*

During the Old Testament, from Abraham to Pentecost there were only 2 types of people in the world: Jews and Non-Jews called Gentiles. Before

## The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision Ephesians 2:11-13

God there was and still is and always will be only two types of people on the earth: believers and non-believers.

People are always divided by Jesus Christ.

There were 2 basic reasons why being Gentiles in the flesh was a *disadvantage*:

- a. In the Age of Israel it was not common for Gentiles to receive any direct revelation from God.
- b. In the Age of Israel it was not common for Gentile to receive blessings from God.

Salvation, in the Old Testament was the same as it is today: faith in the promised Messiah who they/we were later told was Jesus of Nazareth.

**Second:** The second disadvantage to Gentiles was they were **uncircumcised**.

This can take a long period of time talking and explaining.

But the Covenant agreement God had with Israel was that all of its men had to be circumcised to indicate their affiliation with God. Circumcision was not commonly practiced by Gentiles during those days. Those not circumcised were considered by the Jews as heathen and unclean. This became a main reason for division between Jews and Gentiles. During the period against Jews by the Germans, many Jews did not circumcise their male babies to protect them from the Germans.

Paul is setting the record straight that now circumcision of the flesh meant nothing when it becomes to a true relationship with God. Titus was chosen as a teacher of the Word of God and was not circumcised. Titus was not circumcised but Timothy was. The circumcision of the heart which is a clean heart is what matters to God. Now the two types of

## The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision Ephesians 2:11-13

people on earth are no longer Jews and Gentiles, but believers in Christ and unbelievers.

**Third:** Gentiles were without Christ. Ephesians 2:11-13.

Only Israel was promised a Messiah, not the Gentiles. Now throughout all the Old Testament, like the period from Adam and Eve to Abraham, Gentiles who put their faith in the coming Messiah were saved. Jesus, Himself, actually said: “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” After the day of Pentecost the gospel is welcomed to all people. In Acts chapter 10 is a wonderful declaration of the coming the Gospel to the house of Cornelius (horn blowing) the first Gentile listed in the New Testament to come to the Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts chapter 9 Paul is saved and sent to the Gentiles.

**Fourth:** Gentiles were typically *excluded from the commonwealth of Israel*. Ephesians 2:12.

The commonwealth of Israel is actually citizenship in Israel which brought with it direct blessings from God.

Excluded from the Commonwealth: this word covers 4 pages of a Greek Lexicon, or into 7 columns; It means to be without God and without Christ is being without hope *having no hope and without God*.

**Fifth:** Gentiles were also *strangers* from the covenants of Promise. God made several covenants or contracts with the Jewish people.

(1) Abrahamic Covenant promised a great nation to be God’s chosen people. Genesis 12:1-3. It is signed by covenant. It has four major parts:

- a. A Promised land, the land of Canaan;
- b. A great Prosperity;
- c. Priesthood and Gospel blessings.

**The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision**  
**Ephesians 2:11-13**

d. A Mission of Salvation to Others.

It is still, today in effect.

(2) Mosaic Covenant gave Israel a special relationship with God. Exodus 19 & 24. It states again the Abrahamic Covenant and gave the Ten Commandments.

(3) The Levitical Covenant gave Israel a special priesthood with special access to God. Deuteronomy 33:8-11. The sons of Levi will be refined like gold and silver. Malachi 3:3.

(4) The Palestinian Covenant promised Israel an eternal title to their land plus the promise to return the land to them if they should ever be scattered. Deuteronomy 29:1-29 and Deuteronomy 30:1-10. The Palestinian Covenant does not get its name from the Bible; It is more appropriately called the “Land Covenant.” It is the promised land. It is not yet fulfilled.

(5) The Davidic Covenant gave David’s family line an eternal right to the throne in Israel (2 Samuel chapter 7) and is yet to be fulfilled. It will be fulfilled by Jesus Himself.

(6) The New Covenant promised Israel that God would write His law on their hearts and be forgiven of their sins. Jeremiah 31:31-33 and Hebrews 8:7-13. It will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.

These Covenants belong to Israel.

You will notice that we have looked at 6 Covenants and not mentioned ‘*covenants of promise.*’ Of the six Covenants referring to Israel, all of them demand eternal life. All of these are directed to the Jews who will inherit them, only born again Jews. But now we mention *Covenants of Promise.* It is used of divine promises. They refer to gracious gifts. Now Jews, who are believers in the Church Age, are not reckoned as Jews in

## The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision Ephesians 2:11-13

the age of Israel, not Old Testament, not Tribulation and not the Jews of the Millennium. But they will receive *covenants of promise*. The *covenants of promise* refer to unconditional covenants. “The reason the gentiles in Ephesians were ‘*strangers*’ to these covenants is because they were covenants that God made with the nation Israel that contained promises for that nation.” (Harold W. Hoehner who I was privileged to have as an instructor in Dallas Theological Seminary.)

**Ephesians 2:12...having no hope.** The lack of hope for the Gentiles comes out of a study of Ephesians 1:18 *so that you will know what is the hope of His calling*. It was a hope of the Promise of God. And another lack of the Gentiles was *and without God in the world*. This is where we get the English word *atheist* (one who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods).

### **Points on Circumcision**

#### I. Definition:

1. Circumcision is the cutting away of useless skin from the male sexual part.
2. The male child was circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day and he had nothing to say about it. It is the cutting away or removal of something that is totally unnecessary.
3. Its significance is twofold: cutting away of that which is useless is a picture of
  - 1<sup>st</sup> cutting the human race out and away from Israel and cutting away that which is useless, is a picture of
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting away anything that comes from the flesh.

II. Significance of Circumcision. Circumcision was established as a sign of the Abrahamic Covenant. Genesis 17:8-14.

## The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision Ephesians 2:11-13

- (1) 1<sup>st</sup> significance of Circumcision was that it is a ritual related to *Promise of Land* with the Jewish people possessing a well-defined land of Canaan by Abraham's seed. Abraham believed the promise of God for this land. Circumcision was a separating of himself unto the Lord, therefore, separating was symbolized by ritual of Circumcision.

And if we think about history – why has there been, through Church Age history, a battle always going on in the Middle East? Right up to this very day, treaty after treaty trying to establish peace in this land, and now at least three of the four past presidents tried to establish peace by giving some of the land of Israel to enemies of Israel.

This will not work, as all the attempts of past presidents have shown. In fact, the greatest battle in history...Armageddon is to decide whose land this land is. God has promised this land to Israel and Jews right up to today, Jews practice circumcision in hopes of this land.

- (2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> significance of Circumcision was a ritual related to God's founding of the Jewish race.

Abraham was the first to be circumcised and the first Jew in human history. Abraham was 99 years old and sexually dead when he was circumcised. Genesis 17:1 & 11. He was circumcised long after his salvation and long after receiving the Abrahamic Covenant. God commanded him to be circumcised as an act of faith in the promise of the Abrahamic Covenant.

And to start the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant, Abraham had a son at 99; and when he circumcised that son on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after his birth this started the Jewish race. Romans 4:9-12.

**The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision**  
**Ephesians 2:11-13**

(3) Circumcision of the establishment of a **New Race**. A physical sign of a **New Nation**.

Abraham was 99 and sexually dead yet by his consenting to circumcision, as an act of faith, in the promises of God, that he would Father a New Nation. Circumcision had a national significance.

4. Circumcision had a sexual significance. Only the male was to be circumcised. The woman does not need such a ritual. By God's design the woman is a '*responder*.' Every time a male had sexual intercourse with a woman, hopefully with his wife, his circumcision was a physical reminder that he was set apart and was to make love only to a Jewish woman.

And the woman did not need a sign, for every time she made love with a man, hopefully her husband, the physical sign of circumcision was a physical reminder to her that she was to have sex only with a Jewish male.

So, while Circumcision was only for the male it served to remind both male and female that they are set apart as a unique race. There was a sexual significance to the ritual of circumcision. So circumcision was a physical or sexual sign to the male that he was to father a great nation and to her that she was to be a mother of a great race and nation. Circumcision was a ritual that Israel would be blessed by a maximum number of Jewish males finding the Jewish woman designed for him, and they would live in great blessing both individual and national blessing given from God.

And so, when a Jewish man or woman had sex with a Gentile they were sinning against God, against their nation and against the one designed for them.



## The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision Ephesians 2:11-13

Most people relate sex to the body, but unless it is related to the soul, it is meaningless and destructive to both the soul and the body. The happiness of a nation and stability of a nation is dependent upon a maximum number of people finding the one designed for them and remaining married.

The nation is stabilized, secured, happy and blessed. Men should not be forced to serve in the military, they should want to go to protect their country, their homes and their wives.

But when that nation has a number of divorces, (even 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> divorce) and an increase in homosexuality and lesbianism, it shows just how sick a nation has become. And now today, we have the whole transgender issue!

People, use your heads, a little boy and little girl, start out with confidence, security: *I am a boy, I am a girl*, but when you take this away, they start off confused with no security, and then take away the Divine Institution of Family – of Father and Mother, and this leads to more insecurity, and even before the child really starts growing—loss of basic security is rotting away this nation. This nation (any nation with these moral collapses) is headed toward collapse of the home, family and of the Nation itself.

### 5. Circumcision and Spiritual Significance:

1<sup>st</sup> Circumcision also reminded all Israel, male and female, that Israel and the Jewish race were set apart by God as custodians of the Gospel, they were the representatives of God. They were given the great privilege of all time---this responsibility for the Scriptures from God including the Gospel. They are circumcised; they are different; they are to spread the gospel to all Gentile nations. They had a great mission!

**The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision**  
**Ephesians 2:11-13**

And by the way people we are set apart to Christ to spread the gospel during the Church Age—set apart not by physical circumcision but by spiritual circumcision in Christ. The Christian is Different!

And this is one reason why the world hates Christians.

2<sup>nd</sup> Circumcision was the sign of the Jewish race and no male Jew could partake of Passover without being circumcised. Circumcision was related to the racial and national importance to the Jews. Passover speaks of the person and death of the coming Messiah. Therefore, a Jew could not observe the Passover unless he was circumcised.

In the Church Age, the Communion table is for believers only but not just for believers but believers who are Filled with the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 11.

But it should be noted that circumcision did not save a Jew, even at the time of its inception. Abraham was not saved by circumcision. Abraham was saved by faith! Abraham was saved long before he was circumcised which means he was saved in an un-circumcised state, which makes Abraham a father or pattern of all who believe in the coming Messiah or after His incarnation, Jesus Christ, whether Jew or Gentile. Galatians 3:29

Take a look at the offspring of Abraham:

Ishmael who was circumcised, but his circumcision had no meaning to Ishmael only to his father.

All the life of Ishmael, who was a *wild ass of a man*, he was a trouble maker. Ishmael fathered many Arab nations and there has been trouble between the Arabs and Jews throughout all history and

**The Circumcision and The UnCircumcision  
Ephesians 2:11-13**

there will continue to be until the King of Kings and Lord of Lords returns.

Circumcision had Covenant significance to the Jews:

Circumcision has a land significance.

Circumcision has a racial significance.

Circumcision has national significance.

Circumcision has sexual significance.

Circumcision has a spiritual significance.

IV. The ritual of circumcision has no significance in the Church Age.  
Acts 15:1 and

**Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither Circumcision nor un-circumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**